

A Guide to Federal Health Professional Shortage Area Designations in Washington State

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Introduction

Federal health professional shortage area designations are used to target several millions of dollars in federal resources to improve access to health care in underserved areas of Washington State. They establish initial eligibility for more 30 federal aid programs. In 1998, the Office of Community and Rural Health (OCRH) estimates that federal shortage designation qualified local clinics, providers, and health jurisdictions for \$35 to \$50 million of federal funds.

A Field Guide to Federal Health Professional Shortage Areas

There are two types of Federal shortage area designations: Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Areas/Medically Underserved Populations (MUAs/MUPs).

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA)

The HPSA designation system was initially developed in the 1970's for allocating National Health Service Corp placements. Several other federal programs now use it. Shortage areas can be determined for:

- primary care physicians (family and general practitioners, pediatricians, obstetricians/gynecologists, and general internists in medical or osteopathic practice);
- primary dental care; and/or
- mental health care.

A shortage area can be a county or sub-county area. Because the federal criteria use census data, sub-county areas are established using census geography (census tracts, census civil divisions [CCDs], or multiple counties). Within these areas shortages can apply to:

- An entire population (geographic designation).
- An underserved sub-population within a geographic area (population designation). Eligible populations include:
 - Low-income populations (defined as the population with incomes at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Levels (FPL),
 - Medicaid-eligible population,
 - Migrant (or migrant and seasonal) farmworkers and families,
 - Native Americans (American Indians or Alaska natives) that are not automatically designated, or
 - Other populations isolated from access by means of specified language, cultural barriers, or handicaps.

Other designations can be made for:

- Public or non-profit facilities located outside a HPSA but which provides access to HPSA residents (facility designation)
- Federally-recognized tribes
- Federal and state correctional facilities.

These distinctions are important because they affect federal grant eligibility.

In general, an area qualifies if the ratio of the population to health care providers exceeds a specified threshold. Thresholds for primary care are 3,000 or 3,500 or more people per primary care physician, for general dentists 4,000 to 5,000 persons per dentists. The lower threshold is applied in areas demonstrating "unusually high need" or evidence that neighboring area providers do not have the capacity to see more patients. The rules governing designation are complex. HPSA designations expire after three years unless they are updated. See Appendix 2 for more details.

Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) and Medically Underserved Populations (MUPs)

MUA/MUP system was developed to identify areas where Community and Migrant Health Centers can locate. The Rural Health clinic system also uses it the system as part of their qualification criteria. MUA/MUP designations are similar to the Primary Care HPSA's. An area is designated as an MUA/MUP based on whether an area exceeds a score for an Index of Medical Underservice (IMU). The IMU is an index value based on 1) infant mortality rate; 2) poverty rates; 3) percentage of elderly; and 4) primary care physicians to population ratios. As with HPSA designations, an area (MUA) or a population (MUP) may be designated.

Which Designation is Most Appropriate for an Area?

Which designation is the right one to pursue? It depends on local needs and the type of assistance an area is seeking. Table 1 summarizes the major programs using Federal shortage designations. Each of these programs has additional requirements and application procedures. Appendix 1 describes them in more detail.

Table 1
Major Programs Using Federal Shortage Designations

Program	Designation required
National Health Service Corps Placement	HPSA for the provider type being placed
Community Health Center status Migrant Health Center status Federally Qualified Health Center status	Preference for CHC and Expansions located in an MUA/MUP
Medicare Ten Percent Bonus Payments	Setting of care locations in <u>Primary Care Geographic HPSA</u>
Rural Health Center status (Eligibility for certain types of cost-based Medicaid and Medicare Reimbursement)	Facility must be located in Primary Care HPSA (Geographic or Population) or MUA (medically underserved area), which has been updated within three calendar years.
J-1 Visa Program	Primary Care or Mental Health HPSA or MUA/MUP (full county only)
Enhanced federal grant availability for health professional training	Training located in HPSA
Medicare reimbursement for telemedicine services	Teleconsultation systems in a non-metropolitan county or primary care geographic HPSA in a metropolitan county.

New Developments Effecting Shortage Designations

Rule changes: On September 1, 1998, the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) proposed new rules governing HPSA and MUA designations for primary care. The proposed rule would have significantly affected the designation process and reduced the number of designations in the state. Several states, including Washington raised objections, and the proposed rules were withdrawn in 1999. The Washington State Primary Care Office has been working with Bureau of Health Professions (BHP) (now in charge of the designation process), and 16 other states to develop more workable rules. BHP received recommendations in fall 2000. New proposed rules are expected in sometime in 2002. Implementation is not likely until 2003 at the earliest. For more information please contact Vince Schueler at OCRH, (360) 705-6767 or at vince.Schueler@doh.wa.gov

Rural Health Clinics: The federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires that all new Rural Health Clinics must be located in area that has been designated **within three calendar years of the application date**. The designation date is calculated from the date on the Bureau of Health Professions, Shortage Designation Branch (SDB) approval letter. Because SDB does not start its routine update process until the end of the third year, some areas, which have updated designations, will not meet the three-year requirement. So it is important for the Rural Health Clinics to make sure a renewal request is submitted to SDB at least six months prior to the end of the three-year period.

Designation backlog: In the past, The Federal Division of Shortage Designation Branch (SDB) has experienced significant backlogs of a year or more in reviewing designation requests. Recently the review backlogs have been reduced to 2-5 months. Designation requests should allow for at least six (6) months of lead-time.

How Do I Get My Area Designated?

Appendix 2 contains step-by-step instructions outlining the designation process and where to get more information.

What areas of Washington State Are Currently Designated?

As of May 10, 2002, **126** areas or facilities in Washington State had HPSA designations. Table 2 summarizes HPSA's by provider type. Because Washington State's counties are large, more than one area in a county may have a designation for a particular provider type or because of geographical and demographic reasons, portions of one county could be connected with a neighboring county to form a designation. See Tables 3-5 for a detailed list.

Table 2

Provider Type	Counties With Some Area or Population Designated	Total Designations Excluding Facilities
Primary Care	38	71
Dental Care	33	32
Mental Health	27	23

There are 45 MUA/MUP designations in 30 counties. These are listed in Table 6.

Designation Status Inquires

The list of designated HPSA's and MUAs in Appendix 2 is current as of May 10, 2002. Changes in the list occur frequently. Please contact the Office of Community and Rural Health at 360-705-6772 or send an e-mail request to laura.olexa@doh.wa.gov for a copy of the most recent listing and for information concerning designation changes or HPSA boundaries. A list of Washington designations is available at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/HPSA/hpsa1.htm>. The Division of Shortage Designation Branch maintains a national HPSA list updated monthly at <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/dsd/>. To map the address of your facility to a census tract we suggest using: <http://www.ffiec.gov/geocode/default.htm>. Or census tracts can be found on the Department of Health – GIS website at <http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm>

**Table 3
PRIMARY CARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS
BY COUNTY**

County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID.
Adams		Low-Income/Migrant	Adams County	Entire County	05/21/2001		530N
Asotin		No designation					
Benton	Franklin	Low-Income/Migrant/homeless	Benton and Franklin Counties	Entire County		4/22/2002	5393
Chelan	Douglas	Migrant/Seasonal	Chelan and Douglas Counties	Entire County	08/23/1999		5325
Clallam	Jefferson	Geographic	Clallam Bay-Neah Bay	Clallam: Clallam Bay/Neah Bay (9801-2), Forks (9803-5) CCDs; Jefferson: West End (9501) CCD	09/19/2000		5333
Clallam		Low-Income	Port Angeles, Agnew-Carlsborg, Sequim	CTs Port Angeles: 9807, 9807.99, 9808, 9809, 9810, 9811, 9812, 9813, 9814, 9815, Agnew-Carlsborg: 9816, 9817, 9818, Sequim: 9819, 9820, 9821, 9822, 9823	09/18/2001		530X
Clallam		Simplified Pop. - Indian Tribe	Lower Elwha Indian Tribes	Crescent (9806) CCD	05/11/2001		5359
Clark		Low-Income	Central Vancouver/Hazel Dell Service Area	CTs 408.01, 409.03-04, 410.02-.03, 410.05-410.07, 411.05-.06, 416-421, 423-429	06/13/2000		530C
Clark		Low-Income	Camas	CTs 405.02, 405.03, 414, 415	05/30/2000		530B
Clark		Low-Income	Parts of Battle Ground, Orchards, and Vancouver	CTs Battleground: 407.02, 404.02 Orchards: 407.03, 407.04, 411.04, 413.04, Vancouver: 408.02	05/05/2000		530A
Columbia		Low-Income/Migrant	Columbia County	Dayton (9602), Starbuck (9601)	11/02/2001		530Z
Cowlitz		Geographic	Cowlitz County	Woodland (0015), Cowlitz East (0018)	09/28/2001		530Y
Cowlitz		Low-Income/Migrant/Homelless	Cowlitz County	Entire County		03/20/2002	
Douglas	See Chelan						
Ferry		Geographic	Ferry County	Entire County	02/02/2001		53019
Franklin	See Benton						
Garfield		Geographic	Garfield County	Entire County	02/25/2002		53023
Grant		Geographic	Lower Grant County	Southern slopes (9814)	03/27/2001		5335

Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at <http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm>

County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID.
Grant	Okanogan	Geographic	Upper Grant County	Grant: Grand Coulee (9801), Coulee City (9801), Okanogan: Nespelem (9701)	03/06/2001		5337
Grant		Geographic	Central Grant County	Ephrata-soap lake (9803, 9804, 9812), George (9807), Gloyd (9802), Moses Lake (9808-11), Quincy (9805-6), Warden (9813), Wilson Creek (9802)	12/12/2000		530F

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Grays Harbor		Geographic	North Beach district of Grays Harbor	North Beach district (0002) (includes Copalis Beach and Ocean Shores)	05/09/2001		5321
Grays Harbor		Geographic	Neilton	Lake Quinalt (0003.00), Humptulips (0003.00)	02/04/2000		5351
Grays Harbor		Low-Income	Westport	South Shore CCD (0016)	03/12/2002		530E
Grays Harbor		Geographic	McCleary-Elma	Elma (0005), McCleary (0006), Malone-Porter (0007)	06/30/1999		5301
Grays Harbor		Low-Income	Aberdeen/Hoquiam	Aberdeen/Hoquiam (8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15), North River (0007), Wishkah (0003), & Wynoochee (4,0017.98)	06/30/1999		5366
Island		Low-Income	Whidbey Island (excluding Camano Is.)	North Whidbey (9701, 9702, 9703, 9704, 9705, 9706, 9707, 9708, 9709), Central Whidbey (9710, 9711, 9712, 9713), South Whidbey Island (9718, 9719, 9720, 9721)	3/15/2002		530K
Island	See Snohomish						
Jefferson		Geographic	Quilcene Bay division	Quilcene Bay (9502)	11/15/2001		5373
Jefferson		Low-Income	Discovery Bay/Oak Bay Service Area	Discovery Bay (9505, 9506, 9506.99); Oak Bay (9503, 9504)	05/08/1998		5395
Jefferson	See Clallam						
King	Pierce	Simplified Homeless	South King County	CTs King: 252-260.02, 263-271, 272-276, 278-289, 290.01-290.02, 291-295.02, 296-299, 300.01-309, 317.01, Pierce: 601.01	12/31/2001		530D
Kitsap		Low-Income	Bremerton	CTs 801.01-02, 802-3, 805-7, 808.98-809.98, 810-14, 814.99, 922-24	10/08/1999		5379
Kittitas		Geographic	Cle Elum	Cle Elum (9751) & Manatash (9752) CCDs	01/10/2000		5302
Kittitas		Low-Income	Naneum (9753), Ellensburg (9754, 9755, 9756) and Kittitas (9757)	CTs 9753, 9754, 9755, 9756, 9757		12/04/2001	
Klickitat		Low-Income/Migrant	Klickitat County	Entire County	05/21/2001		530P
Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm							
County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID.
Lewis		Geographic	Morton	Big Bottom (9720), Mineral (9718), Morton (9719), Mossyrock (9717) CCDs	01/05/2000		5356
Lewis		Low-Income	Southwest Lewis County	Boisfort (9715), Ethel (9712), Olequa (9716), Jackson Prairie (9713) CCDs	12/08/2000		5381
Lincoln		Low-Income	Lincoln County	Entire County	05/15/2001		530M
Mason		Geographic	Mason County	Entire County	09/28/2001		53045
Okanogan		Geographic	West Okanogan County	Methow Valley (9710) & Early Winters (9709) CCDs	03/27/2001		5363
Okanogan		Geographic	South Okanogan County	Brewster-Wakefield (9708), (Colville Reservation (9702) CCD)	02/01/2001		530H

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Okanogan		Low-Income/Migrant	North Okanogan County	Oroville (9703) & Tonasket-Pine Creek (9704) CCDs	08/09/2001		5388
Okanogan		Migrant/Seasonal	Central Okanogan County	Conconully-Riverside (9705), Okanogan (9707), & Omak (9706) CCDs	04/20/2001		5324
Pacific		Geographic	Raymond	Raymond (9502, 9503, 9513) and Willapa Valley (9501) Divisions	01/21/2000		5398
Pacific		Low-Income	Southern Pacific County - (Long Beach, Ocean Beach)	Naselle (9504), Peninsula (9505, 9506, 9507, 9508)	09/11/2001		530R
Pend Oreille		Geographic	Pend Oreille County	Entire County	03/23/2001		53051
Pierce		Low-Income	Lakewood	CTs 714.03-714.05, 715.01, 715.03, 715.04, 717.01, 717.02, 718.02-718.04, 719.01, 719.02, 720, 721.05-721.08, 723.06, 723.08.	04/30/2001		5382
Pierce		Geographic	Longbranch	Lower Peninsula (#0726, 0727)	05/01/2001		5316
Pierce		Low-Income	Eastside Tacoma	CTs 618-627,628.01-02,629-635	09/17/2001		5383
Pierce	King	Geographic	Buckley, Enumclaw Plateau, Mt. Rainier, parts of Puyallup	CTs - Pierce : Mt. Rainier: 701, Buckley: 702.01, 702.02, Puyallup: 703.05, 704, King : Enumclaw Plateau: 312.02, 312.03, 312.04, 313, 314, 315, 316, 331	09/12/2001		530V
Pierce		Low-Income	Tacoma, Ft. Lewis, Dupont and Roy	CTs Tacoma: 721.09, 721.10, Ft. Lewis/Dupont: 728, 729.01, 729.02, Roy: 730.01	09/12/2001		530W
Pierce		Geographic	Eatonville, portions of Ft. Lewis/Dupont and Graham/Thrift	CTs 730.02, 731.06, 732.00	09/12/2001		530U
Pierce	See King						
San Juan		Geographic	San Juan County	Orcas 9601, San Juan Is. 9602,9603, 9604; Lopez 9605,9606		4/03/2002	
Skagit		Geographic	Concrete	Upper Skagit Division (#9511)	01/21/2000		5314
Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm							
County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID.
Skagit		Low-Income/Migrant	West Skagit County	Anacortes (9501,9501.99,9502,9503,9504, 9505,9506,9506.99,9507), Bayview (9519), Burlington (9516,9517,9518), Bow (9508), Cavanaugh (9512), Clear Lake (9513), Conway (9527), LaConner (9521), Lyman-Hamilton (9510), Mt. Vernon (9522-6), Samish (9509), Sedro Woolley (9514-15)	04/24/2001		5323
Skamania		Geographic	Skamania County	Entire County	09/28/2001		53059
Snohomish		Low-Income/Homeless	Everett/Lynnwood	CTs 0401.98, 0402.00-0408.00, 0410.00-0412.00, 0414.00, 0415.00, 0418.01, 0418.03-0418.04, 0419.01, 0419.02, 0510.00-0512.00, 0514.00, 0515.00, 0517.00, 0518.01, 0518.02	06/30/2000		5377
Snohomish		Geographic	Darrington	Cascade Division (0537)	09/19/2001		5334

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Snohomish	Island	Geographic	Camano Island and Stanwood CCD	Stanwood CCD: 531.00, 532.00, 533.00, 534.00; Camano Island CCD: 9714.00, 9715.00, 9716.00, 9717.00	11/19/2001		53PA
Snohomish		Geographic	Tulalip Indian Reservation	Ct. 530.98		2/20/2002	
Spokane	Stevens	Geographic	Deer Park	Spokane: Deer Park (103.01, 103.98, 105.98), Colbert Division (102); Stevens: Loon Lake Division (9513,9514,9515.98, 9516.98)	09/20/1999		5342
Spokane		Geographic	Spokane	Rockford division (143)	09/20/1999		5358
Spokane		Low-Income	Eastern Spokane	CTs 101, 132.01	09/20/1999		5396
Spokane		Low-Income	Southwestern Spokane	CTs 104.01, 139, 140.01-140.02, 141, 142	09/20/1999		5397
Spokane		Simplified Population: Homeless	City of Spokane	CTs (1-47, 105.01, 106-131, 134.01-02, 136, 137)	02/01/2001		530G
Stevens		Geographic	Chewelah	Chewelah (9507, 9508), Columbia (9509), Springdale (9511, 9512)	01/06/2000		5303
Stevens		Geographic	Northport	Kettle Falls Division (9501)	06/29/2000		5360
Stevens		Low-Income	Colville	CTs 9502-9506	09/15/2000		530E
Thurston		Low-Income	South Thurston County	Thurston South (125-7)	05/25/2001		5385
Thurston		Low-Income	Downtown Olympia	CTs 101, 103	04/11/2001		530J

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County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID
Wahkiakum		Low-Income	Wahkiakum County	Entire County	05/26/2001		5387
Walla Walla		Low-Income/Migrant	Walla Walla County	CTs Burbank, Eureka Flat (9200), Touchet, Waitsburg (9201), Walla Walla-College Place (9202-9209)	03/19/2001		5344
Whatcom		Migrant/Seasonal	Whatcom County	CTs Bellingham (1-12, 0008.01,0008.02), Blaine (104.01-02), East Whatcom (101), Ferndale (105, 105.99, 106,107), Lummi Island (109), Lummi Reservation (108), Lynden (103), Point Roberts (110), Sumas (102)	04/26/2001		5346
Whitman		Geographic	Rock Lake/La Cross	Rock Lake (0009), La Cross (0010)	01/06/2000		5350
Whitman		Geographic	Northeast Whitman County	Rosalia (0009), Steptoe (0007), and Tekoa (0009) CCDs	06/22/2001		530Q
Yakima		Migrant	Yakima County	Entire County	03/23/1998		5394

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Adams		Low-Income/Migrant	Ritzville and Lind-Washtucna	Ritzville (#9501), Lind-Washtucna (#9502)	05/10/2001		5315
Asotin		No designation					
Benton	Franklin	Low-Income/Migrant	Benton and Franklin Counties	Entire County	12/10/2000		5320
Chelan	Douglas	Migrant/Seasonal	Chelan and Douglas Counties	Entire County	08/23/1999		5324
Clallam	Jefferson	Geographic	West Side Olympic Peninsula	CTs Clallam: 9802-9805, Jefferson: 9501	07/27/1999		5341
Clallam		Low-Income	Port Angeles and Sequim	CTs 9807, 9807.99, 9808, 9809, 9810, 9811, 9812, 9813, 9814, 9815, 9816, 9817, 9818, 9819, 9820, 9821, 9822, 9823	09/28/2001		5352
Clark		No Designation					

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County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID
Columbia	Walla Walla	Low-Income/Migrant	Columbia and Walla Walla Counties	Entire County	02/27/1998		5321
Cowlitz		Low-Income	Cowlitz County	Entire County	03/19/2001		5348
Douglas	See Chelan						
Ferry		Geographic	Ferry County	Entire County	10/26/2001		53019
Franklin	See Benton						
Garfield		No designation					
Grant		Geographic	Lower Grant County	Southern Slopes - #9814	07/27/2001		5351
Grant		Low-Income/Migrant	Central Grant County	Ephrata-Soap Lake (9803,9804,9812), George (9807), Gloyd (9802), Moses Lake (9802,9808-11), Quincy (9805,9806), Warden (9813) and Wilson Creek (9802) CCDs	06/30/2000		5323
Grays Harbor		Low-Income	Grays Harbor	Entire County	03/22/2001		5349
Island		Low-Income	Whidbey Island	Central (9710,9711,9712,9713), North (9701-9), and South Whidbey Island (9718, 9719, 9720,9721)	12/26/2000		5346
Jefferson		Low-Income	Port Townsend	Discovery Bay (9505, 9506, 9506.99), Oak Bay (9503, 9504) and Quilcene Bay (9502) CCD's	01/10/2000		5342
Jefferson	See Clallam						

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King		Low-Income/Homeless	South King County	CTs 259, 292.01-02, 297, 298.01-02, 299, 300.02, 302.02, 303.03, 305.01-.02, 306-308	03/31/1998		5340
Kitsap		Low-Income	Bremerton	CTs 801.01-02, 802-814.99, 912.01-02, 913-17, 918-20	06/05/2001		5335
Kittitas		Low-Income/ Migrant/Homeless	Kittitas County	Entire County		4/22/2002	
Klickitat		Low-Income/Migrant	Western Klickitat County	Wahkiacus (9502), White Salmon (9503) & Yakima Reservation (9501) CCDs	07/20/2001		5337
Klickitat		Low-Income	Eastern Klickitat County	Goldendale and Horsehaven (9501)	06/18/2001		5336
Lewis		Low-Income	Lewis County	Entire County	03/19/2001		5347
Lincoln		Low-Income	Odessa and Wilbur CCDs	Odessa (9604), and Wilbur (9603)	10/26/2001		5353
Mason		Geographic	Mason County	Entire County	01/12/2001		53045
Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm							
County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID
Okanogan		Medicaid-Eligible Pop.	Okanogan County	Entire County	01/10/2000		5332
Pacific		Geographic	Pacific County	Entire County	12/26/2000		53049
Pend Oreille		Geographic	Ione/Metaline Falls	Ione-Metaline Falls (9701)	10/24/2001		5338
Pierce		Medicaid-Eligible Pop.	South Central Pierce County (Buckley, Eatonville, Ft. Lewis-Dupont, Graham-Thrift, Mt. Rainier, Puyallup, Roy and Tacoma CCDs)	CTs 601.01-635, 702-.02, 720, 732, 728,728.03,729.01-02,730.01-02, 731.04, 731.05, 731.06, 731.03 714.01-05, 701, 734.01-04, 733, 735, 703.01-05, 704-6, 707.01-02, 708-11, 712.02-04, 729.0, 713.02-719.02, 721.05-723.08	11/08/1999		5327
San Juan		No designation					
Skagit	Whatcom	Low-Income/Migrant	Whatcom and Skagit Counties	Entire County	12/10/2000		5322
Skamania		No designation					
Snohomish		Low-Income/Homeless	Everett/Lynnwood	CTs 401.98,402-408,410-412, 414, 415, 418.01, 418.03, 418.04, 419.01, 419.02, 510, 511, 512, 514, 515, 517, 518.01, 518.02	06/30/2000		5344
Spokane		Low-Income	Central Spokane Service Area	Spokane Division (1-47, 105.01, 106-131, 134.01-02, 136, 137)	06/23/2000		5318
Stevens		Geographic	Stevens County	Entire County	10/08/1999		53065
Thurston		Low-Income	Thurston County	Yelm, East Olympia (123,124, 124.02), West Olympia (118, 119), South Thurston (125-7)	04/11/2001		5350

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DENTAL CARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS
BY COUNTY

Wahkiakum		Low-Income	Wahkiakum County	Entire County	11/21/2000		5345
Walla Walla	See Columbia						
Whatcom	See Skagit						
Whitman		No Designation					
Yakima		Migrant/Seasonal	Lower Yakima Valley	Mabton (27), South Yakima (27), Sunnyside (18-22), and Toppenish-Wapato (23-26), Grandview Service Area	12/10/2000		5319

Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at <http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm>

Table 3
MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS
BY COUNTY

County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID
Adams		Geographic	Adams County	Entire County	11/27/2000		53001
Asotin		No designation					
Benton	Franklin/Walla Walla	Geographic	Tri-Cities Service Area	Benton, Franklin Counties and Burbank CCD (Walla Walla County)	12/12/2000		5315
Chelan	Douglas	Geographic	Chelan and Douglas Counties	Entire County	11/21/2000		5302
Clallam		Geographic	Clallam County	Entire County	06/06/2000		3009
Clark		No designation					
Columbia	Garfield	Geographic	Columbia and Garfield Counties	Entire counties	09/21/2001		5324
Cowlitz		Low-Income	Cowlitz County	Entire County	04/21/2000		5322
Douglas	See Chelan						
Ferry		Geographic	Ferry County	Entire County	11/27/2000		53019
Franklin	See Benton						
Garfield	See Columbia						
Grant		Geographic	Grant County	Entire County	11/27/2000		53025
Grays Harbor		Geographic	Grays Harbor County	Entire County	09/21/2001		53027
Island		No designation					
Jefferson		Geographic	Jefferson County	Entire County	09/13/2000		3031
King		No Designation					
Kitsap		No designation					
Kittitas		Geographic	Kittitas County	Entire County	04/28/1999		5307
Klickitat		Geographic	Klickitat County	Entire County	09/26/2001		53039
Lewis		Low-Income	Lewis County	Entire County	11/24/2000		5320
Lincoln		Geographic	Lincoln County	Entire County	11/27/2000		3043
Mason		Low-Income	Mason County	Entire County	06/30/2000		5319
Okanogan		Geographic	Okanogan County	Entire County	11/27/2000		53047
Pacific		Geographic	Pacific County	Entire County	07/20/2001		53049
Pend Oreille		Geographic	Pend Oreille County	Entire County	11/27/2000		53051
Pierce		No designation					
San Juan		No designation					

Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at <http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm>

Table 3
MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS
BY COUNTY

County	Additional County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Approval Date	Application to HRSA	Federal ID
Skagit	See Whatcom						
Skamania		No designation					
Spokane		No designation					
Stevens		Geographic	Stevens County	Entire County	11/27/2000		53065
Thurston		No designation					
Wahkiakum		Geographic	Wahkiakum County	Entire County	11/27/2000		53069
Walla Walla	See Benton						
Whatcom	Skagit	Low-Income, Migrant	Whatcom and Skagit Counties	Entire County	09/18/2001		5323
Whitman		No designation					
Yakima		Migrant/Seasonal	Yakima County	Entire County	04/21/2000		5309

Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at <http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm>

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Correctional Facility Name	Primary Care	Mental Health	Dental Care
Clallam Bay Corrections Center	04/20/2000 - 5399	04/20/2000 - 5317	No Designation
Coyote Ridge Corrections	04/20/2000 - 5380	04/20/2000 - 5321	04/20/2000 - 5333
WA Corrections/Reception Center	04/20/2000 - 5361	04/20/2000 - 5312	04/20/2000 - 5331
McNeil Island Corrections Center	04/20/2000 - 5308	No Designation	No Designation
Monroe Correctional Complex (TRU, SOU, WSRU)	Applied 3/29/2002	No Designation	No Designation
Corrections Center for Women (Purdy)	No Designation	No Designation	No Designation
Twin Rivers Correction Center	04/20/2000 - 5375	04/20/2000 - 5311	04/20/2000 - 5343
WA State Penitentiary	04/20/2000 - 5376	04/20/2000 - 5314	04/20/2000 - 5330

MUA/MUP DESIGNATIONS						
County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Index Ratio	MUA/MUP Submitted	MUA/MUP Approved
Adams	MUA	Othello		59.1		05/11/1994
Asotin	MUA	Asotin County	Entire County	53.1		04/12/1994
Clallam	MUA	Clallam Bay-Neah Bay Division, Forks Division	Clallam Bay-Neah Bay (9801-2), Forks (9803-5)	58.1		04/15/1982
Clallam	MUP	Crescent (9806), Port Angeles (9807, 9807.99, 9808, 9809, 9810, 9811, 9812, 9813, 9814, 9815), Agnew-Carlsborg (9816, 9817, 9818), Sequim (9819, 9820, 9821, 9822, 9823)	CTs 9806, 9807, 9807.99, 9808, 9809, 9810, 9811, 9812, 9813, 9814, 9815, 9816, 9817, 9818, 9819, 9820, 9821, 9822, 9823	52.4		02/15/2002
Clark	MUA	Inner City of Vancouver	CTs 410.05, 416-419, 421, 423-429	62.3		01/31/1994
Columbia	MUA	Columbia County	Entire County	57.9		unknown
Cowlitz	MUA	Kelso City	Ct's 10 & 11	54:0		01/31/1994
Cowlitz	MUA	Castle Rock	CT 20.01	54.6		Unknown
Douglas	MUA	Douglas County	Entire County	59.9		08/14/1984
Ferry	MUA	Ferry County	Entire County	58.1		06/04/1982
Franklin	MUA	Franklin County	Entire County	42.7		09/10/1982
Garfield	MUA	Pomeroy	CT 9702	60.9		07/05/1994
Grant	MUA	Grant County	Entire County	59.9		08/14/1984
Grays Harbor	MUA	Southeastern Grays Harbor County	Elma, McCleary, Malone-Porter and Oakville CCD's	61.4		01/31/1994
Grays Harbor	MUA	Quinault	Humptulips Town (0003), Lake Quinault (0003), North Beach (0002), Quinault Reservation (0001)	50.1		04/21/1982
Island	MUA	South Whidbey Island	CTs 9712-9713, 9718-9721	60.9		09/02/1994
Island	MUA	Camano Island	Camano Island (9714, 9715, 9716, 9717)	51.2		11/19/1996
Jefferson	MUA	West End	CT 9501	58.1		04/08/1982
King	MUA	Central Seattle	CTs 71-73, 80-85, 91,92	59.8		05/11/1994
King	MUA	South Seattle	CTs 100, 101, 103, 104, 107-116, 264, 265	57.7		06/08/1982
King	MUP - Poverty and Homeless	Southern King County	CTs 252-254, 259, 291, 292.01-02, 295.01-02, 296, 297, 298.01, 305.01-02, 306-308 (these are portions of Kent, Renton, Auburn and Federal Way)	Gov		07/29/1992
Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm						

MUA/MUP DESIGNATIONS						
County	Designation Type	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Index Ratio	MUA/MUP Submitted	MUA/MUP Approved
Kitsap	MUP	Northernmost Peninsula (Kingston)	CTs 901.01-901.02, 906.02	Gov		01/31/1994
Kitsap	MUA	Downtown Bremerton	CTs 805-806, 810-814	57.9		01/31/1994
Kittitas	MUP	Cle Elum, Manatash CCDs	Cle Elum (9751), Manatash (9752)	59.9		2/15/2002
Kittitas	MUP	Ellensburg, Kittitas and Naneum CCDs	Ellensburg (9754, 9755, 9756), Naneum (9753), Kittitas (9757)	61.5	Submitted 12/21/2001	
Lewis	MUP	Eastern Lewis County	Big Bottom (9720), Mineral (9718), Morton (9719), Mossy Rock (9717)	Gov		01/31/1994
Lewis	MUA	Western Lewis County	Boistfort (9715), Bunker (9701), Centralia-Chehalis (9702-10), Ethel (9712), Jackson Prairie (9713), Logan Hill (9711), Newaukum (9714), Olequa (9716)	Gov		01/31/1994
Lincoln	MUA	Wilbur	CT 9603	59.1		06/03/1992
Okanogan	MUA	Okanogan County	Entire County	55.6		04/06/1990
Pacific	MUA	Pacific County	Entire County	61.0		Unknown
Pend Oreille	MUA	Pend Oreille County	Entire County	50.7		Unknown
Pierce	MUA	Pierce County	Entire County	61.2		07/08/1982
San Juan	MUA	Orcas	Orcas (#9601)	Gov		07/21/1994
San Juan	MUA	Lopez	CTs 9605, 9606	Gov		06/20/1994
San Juan	MUA	San Juan	CTs 9602, 9603, 9604	Gov		06/20/1994
Snohomish	MUA	Central Everett	CTs 402-404, 406-411	61.9		02/01/1994
Snohomish	MUA	West Edmonds	CT 0505	58.9		02/01/1994
Spokane	MUP	Southwest Spokane County	CTs (104.01, 139.00, 140.01-140.02, 141.00-142.00)	61.8		03/31/1999
Spokane	MUA	Spokane County	CTs 0018, 0020, 0024, 0027, 0028, 0032, 0033, 0034, 0035, 0036	62.0		05/11/1994
Stevens	MUA	Stevens County	Chewelah (9507, 9508), Columbia (9509), Kettle Falls (9501), Loon Lake (9513, 9514, 9515.98, 9516.98), Springdale (9511, 9512)	59.4		05/11/1994
Thurston	MUP	Downtown Olympia	Downtown Olympia (101, 102, 103, 104)	59.8		02/08/2001
Whatcom	MUP	Sumas CCD - Low-Income and Homeless	CT 0102.00	61.8		09/13/2001
Whatcom	MUP	Point Roberts CCD - Low-Income and Homeless	CT 0110.00	58.6		09/26/2001

Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at <http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm>

MUA/MUP DESIGNATIONS						
County	Designation	Service Area Name	Geographic Units	Index Ratio	MUA/MUP	MUA/MUP

	Type				Submitted	Approved
Whatcom	MUP	Downtown Bellingham - Low-Income and Homeless	CTs 0006.00, and 0010.00	55.5		09/13/2001
Yakima	MUA	Yakima County	Entire County	60.7		08/04/1992

Note: Address to census tracts can be found by checking the Department of Health – GIS website located at <http://198.187.3.168/gis/mapping.htm>

Appendix 1

PROGRAMS USING FEDERAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA DESIGNATIONS TO QUALIFY

Over 30 federal programs consider federal shortage designations in qualifying criteria. This appendix lists key programs.

National Health Service Corps (NHSC): provides for assignments of federally employed and/or service-obligated physicians, dentists, and other health professionals. The program also provides scholarship and loan repayments to health professionals who agree to serve in the NHSC in HPSA's. For more information, call the Region X, National Health Service Corps hotline (1-800-952-2075) or at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nhsc/>.

Area Health Education Center Program: gives special consideration to centers that would serve HPSA's with higher percentages of underserved minorities; gives funding priority to centers providing substantial training experience in HPSA's. For further information, call (206) 441-7137 for western Washington and (509) 358-7640 for eastern Washington.

Rural Health Clinics Program: provides enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by physician assistants and nurse practitioners in clinics in rural HPSA's, MUA/MUPS. For information on applying for Rural Health Clinic status contact the Office of Community and Rural Health, (360) 705-6772 or request an inquiry packet by e-mailing crhmail@doh.wa.gov

Medicare Incentive Payment For Physician's Services Furnished In HPSA's: (Public Law 100-203, Section 4043, as amended): HCFA gives a 10% bonus payment to physicians providing Medicare-reimbursable services within geographic HPSA's. This payment does not apply to population group HPSA's. For more information, call Medicare Provider Enrollment at (515) 974-3690.

Medicare Reimbursement for Teleconsultations: Teleconsultations originating in non-metropolitan counties or in primary care geographic HPSA's in a metropolitan county. To learn how to participate, call the Medicare Provider Call Center at (701) 277-6782 and choose Option 2.

Higher "Customary Charges" For New Physicians In HPSA's: HCFA exempts new physicians opening practices in non-metropolitan geographic HPSA's from new Medicare limitations on "customary charges". For more information, call Medicare at (206) 615-2350.

Public Health Service Grant Programs: HRSA's Bureau Of Health Professions offers several programs designed to encourage health professional training. Funding preference is given to efforts in HPSA's and MUA/MUPS. For more information check out their website at <http://www.hrsa.gov/> or call the HRSA Seattle Field Office at (206) 615-2490.

Community Health Centers: (CHC) grant funds are legislatively required to serve areas or populations designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as medically underserved. Grants for the planning, development, or operation of community health centers under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act are available only to centers that serve designated MUAs or MUPS. For more information contact the Primary Care Office at (360) 705-6764 or visit their website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/primary.htm>

Federally Qualified Health Centers: Systems of care which meet the definition of a community health center contained in Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, but are not funded under that section, and are serving a designated MUA or MUP, are eligible for certification as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). This allows for cost based reimbursement of services to Medicaid eligible. For more information contact the Primary Care Office at (360) 705-6764 or visit their website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/primary.htm>

State Programs Using Federal Designations

J-1 Visa Waiver Program: The State of Washington can request that Visa requirements be waived for up to 20 International Medical Graduates willing to serve in a HPSA/MUA. For more information contact the Office of Community and Rural Health J-1 Visa Waiver information number at (360) 705-6666 or Visit our website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/R&R/j1.htm>

Appendix 2

GETTING AN AREA DESIGNATED

Roles and Responsibilities

Anyone may initiate a request to designate an area as a HPSA or MUA - local and state governmental agencies, health facilities, individuals, and community groups. However, we recommend submitting requests through OCRH since in many

cases the requestor will save effort and assure quicker success by taking advantage of OCRH's knowledge of how the designation process works.

State: The Office of Community and Rural Health reviews and comments on all proposed federal health professional shortage area designations on behalf of the Governor. OCRH distributes designation requests to other state agencies, health professional associations, the Northwest Primary Care Association, and the Washington Association of Community Health Centers for review. Reviewers must submit comments, if any, directly to the Shortage Designation Branch. In addition OCRH provides:

- Technical assistance and updates on how shortage area designation affects grant eligibility and changes in federal regulations
- Preparation of designation requests and assistance with health provider surveying
- Tracking and follow-up designation requests

Federal: HPSA's and MUA/MUPs are federal designations. The Shortage Designation Branch (SDB) within the US Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Professions, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, Shortage Designation Branch makes the final determination on designation status. The SDB reviews designation requests to assess compliance with federal criteria and address comments from reviewers. SDB may request additional follow-up information, either through OCRH or directly from the initiating organization.

The Designation Process

The rules and procedures governing HPSA and MUA/MUP designation are complex. A letter with documentation addressing designation criteria must be prepared and sent to the Shortage Designation Branch, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, Bureau of Health Professions. The documentation includes:

1. Identification of the designation option sought.
2. A description of the rational service area. A rational service area is a county or sub-county area that is reasonably economically and socially homogenous.
3. Calculation and reporting of the ratio of health care providers to population in the rational service area. Federal rules require surveying and reporting by practice address and name.
4. In some areas it may also be necessary to show unusually high needs by documenting high birth rates, infant mortality and poverty rates, or to establish insufficient capacity among existing providers.
5. Finally it is necessary to show that health care is not available in contiguous areas by demonstrating that the nearest sources of health care are excessively distant, over used, or there are other barriers to accessing them.

The criteria governing HPSA designation are detailed in the Federal Register dated 10/1/93. The SDB also publishes guidelines that outline how the criteria are to be implemented. These are available at:

Shortage Designation Branch
National Center for Health Workforce Analysis
4350 East West Highway, 9th Floor
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301/594-0816 (Office number)
1-800-400-BPHC (Designation information; for example, to verify if an area is designated, or for general designation information.)
301/594-4988 FAX
<http://www.bphc.hrsa.dhhs.gov/>

The SDB reviews and approves new requests and updates. In the past, The Shortage Designation Branch had experienced significant backlogs but recently these have been reduced to 2-5 months. Designation requests should still allow for at least 6 months of lead-time to insure a timely review. When SDB is satisfied that designation criteria are met, SDB sends an approval letter to OCRH. OCRH is responsible for notifying affected organizations.

HPSA/MUA designations become effective on the date of the SDB approval letter. About once a year a list of Geographic HPSA's are published in the [Federal Register](#). HPSA 's expire four years after the approval data, unless updated data is provided.